IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : C. Hudson Hendren III   Art Unit : Unknown
Serial No. :   Examiner : Unknown
Filed   :
Title   : PROVIDING A NETWORK COMMUNICATION STATUS DESCRIPTION
             BASED ON USER CHARACTERISTICS

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before examination of the above referenced application, kindly enter the following amendment.

Cancel claims 1-23.

Add new claims 24-43.

24.   A method of providing information based on user comprehension characteristics of a user, the method comprising:

receiving data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user;

selecting a message from a plurality of messages based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics, wherein the plurality of messages include a first message that corresponds to a first data related to a first set of comprehension characteristics and a second message that corresponds to a second data related to a second set of comprehension characteristics; and

providing the message.

25.   The method of claim 24 wherein a first computer provides the message, and wherein the method further comprises transmitting the message to a second computer.

26.   The method of claim 24, wherein the one or more comprehension characteristics comprise user technical proficiency.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the method further comprises determining the one or more comprehension characteristics by inferring a level of user technical proficiency based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.

28. The method of claim 24, wherein the one or more comprehension characteristics comprise one or more preferred languages of the user.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the method further comprises determining the one or more comprehension characteristics by inferring a preferred language of the user based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.

30. The method of claim 24, wherein the message comprises at least one of the following: text, graphics, video, animation, sound and instructions.

31. The method of claim 24, wherein the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics is provided by the user.

32. The method of claim 24, wherein the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics is inferred by a computer based on user activity.

33. The method of claim 24 wherein the receiving of the data related to one or more comprehension characteristics is partially performed by retrieving the data related to one or more comprehension characteristics from a database.

34. The method of claim 25 further comprising receiving an HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) indicator at the first computer in response to a user's HTTP request for a URL (Universal Resource Locator) provided by the second computer.

35.   An apparatus for providing a message based on user comprehension characteristics comprising:

a data receiver arranged and structured so as to receive data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user;

a data store arranged and structured so as to store a plurality of messages wherein the plurality of messages include a first message that corresponds to a first data related to a first set of comprehension characteristics and a second message that corresponds to a second data related to a second set of comprehension characteristics; and

a first computer that selects a message from the plurality of messages and provides the message.

36.   The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the first computer includes software used to determine the one or more comprehension characteristics by inferring a level of user technical proficiency based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.

37.   The method of claim 35, wherein the first computer includes software used to determine the one or more comprehension characteristics by inferring a preferred language of the user based upon the received data related to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user.

38.   An apparatus for providing a message based on user comprehension characteristics, the proxy comprising:

means for receiving an indicator;

means for receiving data relating to one or more comprehension characteristics of the user;

means for selecting a message from a database storing a plurality of messages wherein the selecting is based on the received indicator and the received data relating to one or more comprehension characteristics, wherein the plurality of messages include a first message that corresponds to a first received indicator and first data related to a first set of comprehension

characteristics and a second message that corresponds to the first indicator and second data
related to a second set of comprehension characteristics; and

        means for providing the selected message to a computer.

39.   The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the one or more comprehension
characteristics comprise user technical proficiency.

40.   The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the one or more comprehension
characteristics comprise one or more preferred languages of the user.

41.   The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the data related to one or more comprehension
characteristics is provided by the user.

42.   The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the data related to one or more comprehension
characteristics is inferred by a computer.

43.   The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the receiving of the data related to one or
more comprehension characteristics is partially performed by retrieving the data related to one or
more comprehension characteristics from the database.
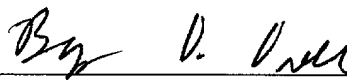
REMARKS

Applicant requests that this amendment be entered before calculation of the filing fee and examination.

Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1/15/02

Benjamin D. Driscoll
Reg. No. 41,571

Fish & Richardson P.C.
601 Thirteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331

40082639.doc